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PHILISTINISM.*

A series of sermons preached last winter which evoked no little criticism at the time is here given to the reading public. The aim cannot be better expressed than in the words of the preface: "They were called forth by the repetition in our city, during the winter, of certain onslaughts upon Christianity which are notorious for their telling expression of the crude and coarse scepticism which many circumstances combine to make popular at present.....My aim in this course....was to go over the grounds along which the more sweeping attacks are being made against religion; in order to indicate, to those who might follow me, the actual situation, and to aid my hearers in discriminating between the indefensible positions which a reverent reason may call upon us to abandon, and the true strategic lines which are not even uncovered by the forces of a raw rationalism."

The author's line of argument is that the attacks of this crude scepticism are are directed not upon the Bible and Christianity, but upon false conceptions of the teachings of the Bible and of the fundamental truths of Christianity which have grown up in the popular religious mind. The real offence consists in this, that the sceptic, having demolished these misinterpretations of the Bible, thinks he has demolished the Bible itself, and that, as he has shown the absurdity of the misconceptions of Christian truth in the minds of many Christians, he supposes he has left nothing at all of Christianity.

The author's counter-charge sweeps away boldly and unceremoniously many common conceptions of fundamental Christian doctrines, and then proceeds to show that the doctrines themselves have not even been touched by the attack, and that they are incontestable facts witnessed to by the human mind in all ages, whether they can be explained by man or not.

Many, if not most, Christian readers will refuse to follow him into all his positions, but it cannot be denied that the argument is exceedingly suggestive and stimulating.

EDERSHEIM'S PROPHECY AND HISTORY.†

This is a timely book. It handles qnestions now occupying the foreground of theological discussion. Whether there is in the Old Testament any true prophecy, and what is its nature; whether any Messianic hope from the beginning, and whether Jesus fulfilled this hope; whether there were any Mosaic institutions at all; whether we are to speak of the Law and the Prophets, or the Prophets and the Law; whether, of Moses and the Prophets, or the Prophets and the Priests. These, together with the Messianic hope of the period from the closing of the Old Testament Canon to the advent of Christ, are the topics of these lectures.

Dr. Edersheim's position as an evangelical and conservative scholar of unusual learning, especially in Jewish literature, is so well attested by his Life and

* PHILISTINISM, Plain Words Concerning Certain Forms of Modern Scepticism. By R. Heber Newton, Rector of All Souls' Protestant Episcopal Church, New York City. New York and London: *G. P. Putnam's Sons.* 5x7. Pp. ix, 332. $1.00.

† PROPHECY AND HISTORY IN RELATION TO THE MESSIAH. The Warburton Lectures for 1880-84, with two Appendices on the Arrangement, Analysis and Recent Criticism of the Pentateuch, by Alfred Edersheim, M. A., Oxon., D. D., Ph. D., author of the Life and Times of Jesus the Messiah. New York: *A. D. F. Randolph & Co.* Pp. xxiv, 391. Size, 9¼x6½. $2.50.